

Washington, DC – U.S. Congressman Ciro D. Rodriguez (TX-23) released the following statement regarding President Obama's announcement of increased troop strength in Afghanistan: "The announcement by the White House today that 30,000 new American troops will be moved into Afghanistan sends a strong message that the United States is prepared to do whatever it takes to end the conflicts that endanger our way of life.

I believe it's important to refocus our efforts on this region of the world, where Al Qaeda forces threaten to regain footing and Taliban insurgents continue to imperil stability in the Afghan government. After eight long years, it's time to put this conflict to rest and make this world a safer place. In doing so, it's important that we have clear goals in mind, and appropriate benchmarks by which to gauge those goals. However, our capable military leaders closest to this conflict know best how long such a strategy will take and I have full confidence in their expertise in determining that.

I would like to add that as the Representative for a Congressional District with a significant military and veteran population, I value the challenges, hardships and sacrifices these men and women – together with their families – make in the service of our freedom. While winning this war is paramount, we cannot forget to honor the dedication of our service members and their families back home with the medical care and financial assistance they deserve."

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